



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

# Press Release

June 24, 2004

## **USCIS TO WELCOME MORE THAN 16,000 NEW CITIZENS DURING 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATIONS** *Ceremonies Highlight the American Dream in Action*

Washington, DC – More than 16,000 men, women and children from throughout the United States will raise their right hands and become America's newest citizens during special 4<sup>th</sup> of July naturalization ceremonies. Held at locations across the United States (see below), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will commemorate our nation's 228th birthday by highlighting "Citizenship: The American Dream in Action" at each celebration.

"As a naturalized citizen myself, I can think of no better way to celebrate America and to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July than to welcome America's newest citizens," said Eduardo Aguirre, Director of USCIS. "For reasons too numerous to list, our newest citizens have left one life behind to start a new one here in America. USCIS is pleased to have played a role in the fulfillment of their American Dream."

Each year, USCIS welcomes more than 640,000 citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the United States. That number includes more than 8,000 service members who have naturalized through an expedited process stemming from their involvement in the war on terrorism.

On March 1, 2003, USCIS became one of three legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security. During the past year, USCIS has helped more than 640,000 men, women and children fulfill their dreams and become United States citizens.

**Naturalization Ceremony Locations** (\* indicates a ceremony to be attended by Director Eduardo Aguirre; an advisory with details is linked to for each)

June 28, 2004	<u><a href="#">El Paso Convention Center, El Paso, Texas</a></u> *
June 29, 2004	Sacramento Zoo, Sacramento, California
July 1, 2004	The Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, Texas
July 1, 2004	Federal Courthouse, Brownsville, Texas
July 1, 2004	Montebello, Los Angeles, California

July 1, 2004	Point Loma, San Diego, California
July 1, 2004	Gus Solomon Federal Courthouse, Portland, Oregon
July 1, 2004	National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 1, 2004	Kiddie Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana
July 1, 2004	<u>Herald Washington Library, Chicago, Illinois</u> *
July 2, 2004	Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, Arizona
July 2, 2004	Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse, Las Vegas, Nevada
July 2, 2004	Houston City Hall Visitor Center, Houston, Texas
July 2, 2004	U.S.S. Intrepid, New York City, New York
July 2, 2004	Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, Nebraska
July 2, 2004	Lexington Middle School, Lexington, Nebraska
July 2, 2004	<u>Historic Court House, St. Louis, Missouri</u> *
July 3, 2004	Esplanade, Boston, Massachusetts
July 4, 2004	The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas
July 4, 2004	South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, Arizona
July 4, 2004	Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington
July 4, 2004	Epcot Center, Orlando, Florida
July 4, 2004	Miami Beach, Miami, Florida
July 4, 2004	Colorado Veterans Monument, Denver, Colorado
July 4, 2004	<u>U.S.S. Constitution, Boston, Massachusetts</u> *
July 6, 2004	Centro de Bellas Artes, San Juan, Puerto Rico
July 6, 2004	Masonic Auditorium, San Francisco, California
July 9, 2004	Skill Center, Sacramento, California

### *Oath of Allegiance*

*“I hearby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation of purpose of evasion; so help me God.”*